

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Why not also show John Kerry and John McCain's efforts when they went to north Vietnam on behalf of missing military personnel to verify that there were no more POW's being held?

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. Prime example of Sinclair's misuse of public airwaves was when they refused to air Nightlines Ted Koppel's reading of the names of our soldiers that died in Iraq. You shouldn't be allowed to pick and choose what is or is not shown on public airwaves. It's called censorship and history shows that is what Hitler's NAZI Germany did to its people and we all know the results of that censorship of the airwaves.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.